

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 190435Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3810

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAI IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 3094

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
18 MARCH 1975. REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO. QUOTE.

S E C R E T BIEN HOA 179

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: BIEN HOA 175

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON A CONVERSATION WITH THE MR3
CHIEF OF STAFF AT 1615 HOURS MAR 18.

2. THE SITUATION REMAINS GENERALLY QUIET IN TAY NINH PROVINCE
EXCEPT FOR ABF'S ON SELECTED TARGETS. IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES,
THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE EXCEPT THAT THE FIRE BASE AND
RF OUTPOST AT PHUOC LAM (YT7248) HAVE BEEN OVERRUN BY THE NVA/VC
AND DOAN KET FARTHER SOUTHWEST AT YT652460 IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE
AND NOT EXPECTED TO HOLD. AT DINH QUAN ON ROUTE 20 THE SUBSECTOR
HAS FINALLY FALLEN BUT THE 2ND BN OF THE 43RD ARVN REGT CON-

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TINUES TO HOLD OUT UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE. THE 1ST BN OF THE 43RD

REGT AND THE 2 BNS OF THE 52ND REGT ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE ROADBLOCKS ON ROUTE 20 NORTH OF KIEM TAN HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION AT HOAI DUC OR AT GIA RAY.

3. GEN TOAN HAS DECIDED TO SHIFT THE 5TH ARMORED SQUADRON AND A RECON COMPANY OF THE 18TH DIV FROM GO DAU HA TO THE AREA EAST OF BIEN HOA NEAR THE BIEN HOA/LONG KHANH BORDER AND THEY WILL BE IN PLACE THERE BY THE END OF THE DAY MAR 18. THESE UNITS ARE TO SHORE UP THE DEFENSES EAST OF BIEN HOA, WHERE PRESENTLY THERE ARE ONLY TERRITORIAL FORCES. SOME OF THE TANKS (M-41) WILL PROCEED ON MAR 19 UP ROUTE 20 TO ASSIST IN THE EFFORT TO BREAK THE ROADBLOCKS NORTH OF KIEM TAN.

4. THE COMMANDER OF THE 43RD ARVN REGT WITH HEADQUARTERS AT KIEM TAN HAS EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT SIX ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY RECEIVED AT KIEM TAN ON THE MORNING OF MAR 18 WERE 152MM HOWITZER OF RUSSIAN MANUFACTURE. FURTHER EXAMINATION WILL BE MADE BY ORDNANCE EXPERTS ASAP. THIS WEAPON WOULD BE NEW TO MR3.

5. COL MINH REPORTED THAT THUS FAR IN THE FIGHTING IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES SINCE MAR 17 EIGHT GVN 105MM PIECES HAVE BEEN LOST OR DAMAGED--2 DAMAGED AT GIA RAY, 2 DAMAGED AT DINH QUAN, 2 LOST AT DINH QUAN, AND 2 LOST AT PHUONG LAM. SIGNED PETERS. UNQUOTE. LEHMANNR

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NNN

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